

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. They are trying to pass it off as news when it's clearly just more Kerry-bashing propaganda by a group (Swift Boat Vets) which has clearly been discredited - even President Bush has acknowledged that Kerry served our country heroically.

To level the playing field you could at least be sure they air a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" shortly after.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. We should be able to hear news, not opinion. That is the main reason why polls show that there is still a large percentage of American who believe Saddam Hussein planned the 911 attacks on America - that is just wrong, but that's what they hear from what passes itself as news and the reason is because the news is 'owned' by a small group of corporations. Sinclair Broadcasting's demand to their stations to air this is a perfect example of what's wrong and why consolidating the media is very dangerous and threatens the freedom that makes this country great.

I truly hope you will consider taking decisive action against this.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Patricia Parraga